



Hay Urban District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1957.

Officials

Medical Officer of Health..... T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P.
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector..... G.G.Evans, M.R.S.H.
P.H.I.A.



Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1957

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District during the year 1957.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subject specifically requested in Circular 1/1958(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics

Area. 370 acres.

The district is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the county of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the county and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

Population. Census 1931.....1509.
 Census 1951.....1452.
 Estimated Midsummer 1957 .1420.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years is shown below:

1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957.

1398. 1407. 1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450. 1450. 1440. 1420.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 501, giving an average number of 2.8. persons per house.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	5.	5.	10.	
Illegitimate.	1.	0.	1.	
	6.	5.	11.	7.7.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.1. The district rate was therefore much lower than the national average and, regrettably definitely lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births was one.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births.</u>
	1.	1.	2.	153.8.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 22.4. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average. This illustrates perfectly the effect that a small number of still births has when the total number of live births is also small.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	7.	9	16.	11.2.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but regrettably, higher than the district birth rate.

Maternal Deaths No death occurred during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

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Infantile Mortality This is the deathrate of children under one year of age. No such deaths occurred in the district during the year whereas the national rate was 23.0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	Two.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...7. Females.....9.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Other malignant neoplasms.....	1.	1.
Vascular lesions,nervous system..	1.	3.
Coronary disease.....	2.	1.
Other heart disease.....	2.	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.	3.
Accidents,not motor Vehicular....	0.	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year,with the kind co-operation of the County Welfare Committee,a room at Cockcroft House continued to be used.Post Mortem examinations can also be performed in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes.

Section 2. General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in previous years. Mr G.G.Evans acted as your Public Health Inspector,and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and the Rural District of Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford,Cardiff,Newport,Carmarthen, Swansea and Brecon.All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford,whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments,dental,eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital.Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Hay Urban DistrictSection 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs to storage reservoirs and thence through distribution mains to the properties: the whole being by gravitation.

The year was fairly dry to the end of June but thereafter the weather was changeable with heavy rain showers and short fine periods. It was still necessary to restrict the flow of water to the town. Restrictions were first imposed on 6th May when the water was turned off during the night (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) On the 17th June further restrictions were necessary: the water being allowed for only 6 hours per day (7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and this continued until the 25th September when all restrictions were removed.

The filter beds at the Hay Common Works were cleaned three times during the year and some new washed sand added. The storage reservoir was also emptied and thoroughly cleaned out.

The underground reservoir at Llangwathan works was also cleaned out.

Area Water Supply Scheme.

During the year further instructions were given to the Consulting Civil Engineers to prepare detailed plans of the scheme and the Council received plans showing the proposed routes of the water mains which were approved with certain additions. It is to be hoped that there will be little further delay in the implementation of this scheme as there can be no doubt that the present water supply both qualitatively and quantitatively, leave much to be desired.

Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....14.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage of the district is not treated in any way, and discharges direct into the River Wye.

During the year the Council's Engineer made progress with a scheme for a sewage disposal works and a number of suitable sites for the works were investigated and a visit was made by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who inspected the various sites.

Number of visits to drainage work made by Public Health Inspector..3.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse.

The work is done by the Council's employees under the supervision of your Public Health Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances

Number of complaints received.....	23.
Number of complaints investigated.....	23.
Number of premises inspected.....	23.
Number of premises revisited.....	10.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	3.
Number of statutory notices served.....	0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Hay Urban DistrictLicensed Premises

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....32.
 There are 8 licensed premises in the area.

Shops.

Number of Inspections made.....33.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....17.
 Number of inspections made.....23.
 Number of defects found.....6.
 Number of defects remedied.....6.

Camping Sites. A site in Brecon Road for the siting of a caravan was approved by the Council and the County Planning Committee.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....2.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of investigation or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....0.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operator is engaged by the Council.

This same operator is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operator worked under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....285.
 Number of premises found infested.....48.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....25.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....23.
 Number of dead rats picked up.....58
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....289.

A total of 20 road gullies were treated during the year and 11 showed evidence of infestation: 15 sewer manholes were also treated and of these 8 were infested.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. During the year no houses were erected by the Council but one was built privately.

There are 36 applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses and of these 31 are living in houses and 5 in rooms. Of the applicants living in houses, 16 are in houses which should be considered for demolition. Of those living in rooms, such houses are in good condition or in such as could easily be brought up to a good standard.

4 Applicants could be housed in one bedroom flats or old peoples bungalows, 16 in two bedroom houses, 16 in three bedroom houses.

2 applications for a Grant under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 were received. Grants were approved and work completed in one case, the other not having commenced in 1957.

Number of housing inspections made.....44.

Hay Urban District.Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932(Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....113.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers..... 4.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders..... 0.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works..... 0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice..... 0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made..... 1.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section(2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930..... 0.
8. Number of houses demolished..... 0.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since 1st October 1949 local authorities were left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered selling T.T. Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.....1.

There is one dairy registered in your district.

Number of samples taken during the year.....9.
number of samples reported as satisfactory.....8.

There are three producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and two of these hold licences to sell designated milk known as tuberculin tested and the one sells undesignated milk.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon and Hereford.

Meat. Three slaughterhouses are registered in the district. All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deals in waste food products.

All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip, after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Comdemned in whole or part

Cattle excluding cows.	Cows. Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs. Horses.
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Number killed(if known)

Number inspected	272.	0.	121.	1707.	168.	-
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	Cattle excluding Cows. cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	17.	-	5.	44.	8.	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci.	6.21.	-	4.09.	2.63.	4.76.	-

<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cysticercosis.

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemned Cattle...123 lbs. Other animals...160 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned Tins..291. Pounds weight.....55½

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....134.

Other Foods. There are 33 shops dealing in foods in your district and
may be tabulated as follows:

Greengrocers.....	1.
Grocers.....	11.
Grocer/Bakers.....	1.
Grocer/Baker/Caterers.....	1.
Grocer/Caterers.....	1.
Fishmongers/Greengrocers.....	2.
Confectioner/Tobacconists.....	5.
Restaurants.....	4.
Fish and Chip shops.....	2.
Butchers.....	4.
Greengrocers/Confectioners.....	1.

Food Preparation Rooms(including Bakehouses)

There are 6 such premises in the district as follows:-

4 butchers preparing pressed, pickled or potted meats and sausages.

2 Bakers dealing in bread and cakes.

During the year one firm ceased baking operations, bread and cakes for
the retail business being purchased from a wholesale firm.

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Number of inspections made.....19.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has been necessary, and since there is only one wholesale grocer in the district, the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous areas.

Ice Cream Premises

There are 11 retailers of ice cream in your district, 9 of these sell pre-packed ice cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....43.

Fried Fish Shops. There are two such premises in the district.

Number of inspections made.....22.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.....1 case.

Sonne dysentery.....1 case.

Measles.....1 case.

Both of the poliomyelitis and dysentery cases were admitted to Hereford Isolation Hospital where complete recovery occurred. The original source of the dysentery was not established as the date of onset was impossible to ascertain. The district as a whole remained remarkably free from cases of infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years:

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	20.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	2.
Number of cases removed as left district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	19.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:

1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957.

3. 0. 6. 0. 3. 6. 0. 3. 5. 4. 6. 1.

Diphtheria. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspection.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,
Medical Officer of Health.

